

QUOTATIONS AND OPINIONS ON THE LAND QUESTION.

Saxon Proverb, quoted by SHARON TURNER :—

"A landless man is an unfree man."

HORACE GREELY :—

"He who has no clear, inherent right to live somewhere has no right to live at all."

Bishop NULTY :—

"The land of every country is the common property of the people of that country."

ANDREW CARNEGIE :—

"The greatest discovery of my life is that the men who do the work never get rich."

JOHN LOCKE :—

"No man could ever have a just claim over the life of another by right of property in land."

Professor ZACHARIE (*The Eminent German Jurist*) :—

"All the sufferings, against which civilised nations have to struggle, may be referred to the exclusive right of property in the soil as their source."

SISMONDI :—

"Let the great landlords beware ; if once they believe that they have no need of the people, the people may in their turn think that they have no need of them."

JOHN RUSKIN :—

"Bodies of men, land, water and air, are the principle of those things which are not, and which it is criminal to consider as, personal or exchangeable property."

Hon. TOM L. JOHNSON :—

"The foreign goods that compete with the goods of our manufacturers and trusts are heavily taxed at the Custom House, but foreign laborers are admitted free of duty."

Professor W. A. HUNTER, M.A., L.L.B. :—

"The English landlord system, so far from having any moral basis, is founded upon a supercilious contempt of the only moral principle that can afford any justification for private property in land."

J. A. FROUDE :—

"Under the feudal system the proprietor was the Crown, *as representing the nation* ; while the subordinate tenures were held with duties attached to them, and were *liable, non-fulfilment, to forfeiture*."

St. GREGORY the GREAT :—

"Those who make private property of the gift of God (land) pretend in vain to be innocent. For in thus retaining the substance of the poor they are the murderers of those who die every day for the want of it."

LORD COLERIDGE :—

"I should myself deny that the mineral treasures under the soil of a country belong to a handful of surface proprietors in the sense that this gentleman appeared to think they did (*i.e.*, to do with as he pleased)."

A Single Tax on the values of land is the only just and proper tax.

CARDINAL MANNING :—

"The land question means hunger, thirst, nakedness, notice to quit, labor spent in vain, the toil of years seized upon, the breaking up of homes, the misery, sickness, deaths of parents, children, wives, the despair and wildness which spring up in the hearts of the poor, when legal force, like a sharp harrow, goes over the most sensitive and vital right of mankind. All this is contained in the land question."

Right Hon. Justice LONGFIELD (*Cobden Club Essays*) :—

"Property in land differs in its origin from property in any commodity produced by human labor; the product of labor naturally belongs to the laborer who produced it; but the same argument does not apply to land, which is not produced by labor, but is the gift of the Creator of the world to mankind. Every argument used to give an ethical foundation for the exclusive right of private property in land has a latent fallacy."

THOMAS CARLYLE :—

"Properly speaking the Land belongs to these two: To the Almighty God and to all His Children of Men that have ever worked well on it, or shall ever work well on it. No generation of men can or could, with never such solemnity and effort, sell Land on any other principle: it is not the property of any generation, we say, but that of all the past generations that have worked on it, and of all the future ones that shall work on it."

ADAM SMITH (*Wealth of Nations*) :—

"The wood of the forest, the grass of the field, and all the natural fruits of the earth, which, when land was in common, cost the laborer only the trouble of gathering them, come even to him, to have an additional price fixed upon them, when land has become private property. He must then pay for license to gather them, and must give up to the landlord a portion of what his labor either collects or produces. This portion, or what comes to the same thing, the price of this portion, constitutes the rent of land."

General FRANCIS WALKER (*"First Lessons in Political Economy"*) :—

"It certainly is true that any increase in the rental value or selling value of land is due, not to the exertions and sacrifices of the owners of the land, but to the exertions and sacrifices of the community. It is certainly true that economic rent tends to increase with the growth of wealth and population, and that thus a larger and larger share of the product of industry tends to pass into the hands of the owners of land, not because they have done more for society, but because society has greater need of that which they control."

Hon. JAMES G. MAGUIRE :—

"Labor and capital struggle with each other in vain attempts to shift the burdens of excessive rent. The land monopolist who exacts the rent tribute is so strongly entrenched that neither labor nor capital thinks of trying to beat down the speculative rent tide which is strangling them both. * * * Production, by reason of this unnatural pressure of speculative or excessive rent, gradually becomes unprofitable everywhere. Stagnation ensues, and labor and capital, in utter helplessness, awaits the inevitable hour of their universal bankruptcy."

GRANT ALLEN (*Contemporary Review*, May, 1889) :—

"Not one solitary square inch of English soil remains unclaimed on which the landless citizen can legally lay his hand, without paying tax and toll to somebody; in other words, without giving a part of his own labour to one of the squatting and tabooing class (the landlords), in exchange for their permission (which they can withhold if they choose) merely to go on existing upon the ground which was originally common to all alike, and has been unjustly seized upon (through what particular process matters little) by the ancestors or predecessors of the present monopolists."

ALFRED RUSSEL WALLACE (*'Malay Archipelago,' 1868*) :—

"We permit absolute possession of the soil of our country with no legal rights of existence on the soil to the vast majority who do not possess it. A great landholder may legally convert his whole property into a forest or hunting ground, and expel every human being who has hitherto lived upon it. In a thickly populated country like England, where almost every acre has its owner and occupier, this is a power of legally destroying his fellow-creatures; and that such a power should exist, and be exercised by individuals, in however small a degree, indicates that as regards true social science, we are still in a state of barbarism."

Access to land can only be brought about by the application of Single Tax.



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RICHARD COBDEN:—

"I warn ministers, and I warn landowners and the aristocracy of this country, against forcing on the attention of the middle and industrial classes, the subject of taxation. For great as I believe the grievance of the protective system, mighty as I consider the fraud and injustice of the Corn Laws, I verily believe, if you were to bring forward the history of taxation in this country for the last 150 years, you will find as black a record against the landowners as even in the Corn Law itself. I warn them against ripping up the subject of taxation. If they want another league at the death of this one—if they want another Organisation and a motive—then let them force the middle and industrial classes to understand how they have been cheated, robbed, and bamboozled."

New York Sun, Aug. 26, 1891:—

"The best and surest subject of taxation is the thing that perforce stays in one place—that is, land."

St. Louis Chronicle:—

"Take the annual rental value of land for taxes, thus relieving all improvements, regardless of their value."

United States Supreme Court:—

"The reserved right of the people to the rental value of land must be construed as a condition to every deed."

New York Times, January 10, 1891:—

"The ideal taxation lies in the single land tax, laid exclusively on the rental value of land, independent of improvements."

London Times:—

"One rises from a reading of 'The Land Question,' that weighty but most fascinating book, with a conviction of the justice of the theory advanced."

Grand Rapids Workman:

"Over three columns of matter in the 'Chicago Herald' of Monday last was devoted to the lecture of Henry George in Chicago the day previous on 'Business Depressions.' Time was when the *Herald* had hardly a good word to say of Mr. George and his theories. It is one bright spot in the cloud of depression to-day to read the sayings of such men as Mr. George, men who are not politicians and who make no claim to being statesmen, but who are alone actuated by honest convictions, and who have made a life study of human ills and woes."

"More can be made out of the man by owning the land he lives on, than by owning the man."

"The community creates land values. The community makes government expenses necessary. Pay the one with the other, instead of allowing land owners to appropriate the natural revenues."

"The Single Tax is not a tax on the area of land, but on the value of land, irrespective of improvements. With a local option taxation act, any municipality can, if it desires, abolish all other taxes, and levy a single tax on land values as the basis for revenue."

"The assessment laws of Ontario specially favors monopoly and the monopoly of mineral resources. According to the Act, all mineral lands are valued and estimated at the same value as other lands in the neighborhood used for agricultural purposes. Why are not our mines developed? Because a few men are allowed to own who will not develop them, nor permit others to, until the 'owners' are paid a monopoly price for the privilege. Put a Single Tax on, then note the result."

—♦♦♦ UNITED STATES ♦♦♦
CENSUS AGENT GEORGE K. HOLMES

Division of Population:			Distribution of Wealth:		
Working Class,	52	per cent	Working Class,	4	1-2 per cent
Middle Class,	39	"	Middle Class,	24	"
Capitalist Class,	8	3-5 "	Capitalist Class,	71	"

For Information, Tracts, Etc., Write,

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